

REMARKS

OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS

The Office action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In response, Figure 1B has been added to show the substantially elliptical cross-sectional shape of the claimed pegs.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 8 and 10

Claims 1-4, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,476,696 issued to Mack (*Mack*). Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Therefore, the rejection of this claims moot. Applicant respectfully submits claims 1-3, 8 and 10 are not anticipated by *Mack* for at least the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5 (which has been cancelled). Thus, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-3, 8 and 10 depend from claim 1. Given that dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant respectfully submits claims 2-3, 8 and 10 are also in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 9

Claims 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mack*. Claim 9 depends from claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Thus, given that claim 9 depends from claim 1, Applicant submits claim 9 is allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 6 and 12

Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mack* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,271,706 issued to Rooney (*Rooney*). As discussed above, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Thus, given that claims 6 and 12 depend from claim 1, Applicant submits claims 6 and 12 are allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 7 and 11

Claims 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mack* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,034,319 issued to Olsson (*Olsson*). Claim 11 has been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of this claim is moot. As discussed above, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Thus, given that claim 7 depends from claim 1, Applicant submits claim 9 is allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 13

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(b) as being unpatentable over *Mack* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,740 issued to Asfar (*Asfar*). Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office action states that claim 5 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant has cancelled claim 5. Therefore, the objection to this claim is moot.

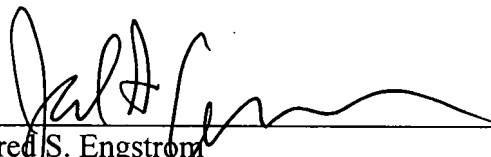
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12-13 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Date: April 16, 2007



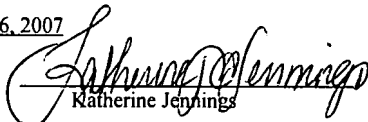
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Katherine Jennings